

Message to Legislature: don't forget long-term higher ed goals while solving budget crisis

Higher Education Coordinating Board Executive Director Ann Daley asked legislators to preserve the state's long-term goals of increased degree production and expanded access to higher education as they work to fill a \$2.6 billion hole in the state budget.

"I respect the difficult job you have ahead of you," Daley told the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. But she urged lawmakers to remember the importance of maintaining college affordability in a time of reduced state support for higher education and to preserve a wide array of financial aid programs for students.

"Let's try to keep the long-term objectives in mind as we solve the short-term crisis," Daley said.

Authority to raise tuition (and by how much) shapes up as major issue during session

As Washington's public baccalaureate institutions face the prospect of additional budget cuts, some legislators are considering giving them greater tuition-setting authority as a way to preserve academic quality.

Gov. Chris Gregoire has asked the lawmakers to provide four-year institutions with "competitive tuition flexibility" that would enable the state to continue producing innovative workers and employers.

The Legislature currently sets tuition rates for resident undergraduate students. Institutions set rates for graduate and non-resident students.

Sen. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, said he would introduce a bill granting public baccalaureate institutions broader latitude in tuition-setting. SB 6276, introduced by Sen. Ken Jacobsen, D-Seattle, would give the University of Washington unlimited tuition authority.

A new HECB tuition study recommends continued legislative control over resident undergraduate tuition but allows increases that keep Washington tuition and fees in line with comparable Global Challenge State (GCS) institutions. The eight GCS states have high potential to succeed in today's knowledge-driven economy.

The HECB study also recommended rejection of "high-tuition, high-financial aid" tuition models, which seek to minimize tuition impacts on low-income students by providing more financial aid. Under that model, tuition increases still squeeze middle-income families.

The HECB also has proposed a higher education finance study that would look at the three major components of higher education funding: appropriations, tuition and financial aid. [Read the tuition report.](#)

Bills introduced Thursday in both the House and Senate would require institutions to submit proposed tuition and fee rates to the HECB for review and evaluation.

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**A weekly report on
higher education
during the 2010
Legislative Session**



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Some financial aid
money would be
restored under new
budget proposal**

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Governor's new budget plan proposes Need Grant 'buy back'

Gov. Chris Gregoire's second supplemental budget proposal announced on Tuesday would restore \$146 million in State Need Grant (SNG) money eliminated in her initial December budget proposal. SNG is Washington's largest need-based financial aid program for students. Under the original budget plan, an estimated 72,900 students would have their SNG awards reduced or eliminated.

"Higher education is a major economic engine for our recovery," the Governor said in her State of the State address. "We need to keep the doors to higher education open to students of all income levels by restoring funding for the State Need Grant Program."

The Governor's latest budget proposal does not buy back funding cuts for a number of smaller need-based programs administered by the HECB. They include the State Work Study (SWS) program, which would be suspended in fiscal year 2011, cutting \$23.5 million for the program and affecting about 9,400 SWS students statewide. In addition, SWS students would lose another \$6 million in employer matching funds.

SWS is the only state financial aid program available to graduate students.

John Klacik, the HECB's Director of Student Financial Assistance, told the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee on Tuesday that financial aid applications are booming—up about 24 percent over a year ago. That trend is "very much a reflection of the economic times we are in," he said.

Klacik said the HECB believes the state currently offers the proper mix of student financial aid, which is about 95 percent need-based. He urged legislators to preserve that mix, even if at reduced funding. If necessary, keep reductions in line with cuts in the overall state budget for higher education, he said.

"We're concerned about compromising longer program goals to accommodate shorter kinds of solutions," Klacik said. [Read more about financial aid programs facing budget cuts.](#)

Institutions continue recruitments for STARS researcher program

The University of Washington and Washington State University are currently recruiting two more STARS researchers to help boost Washington's already substantial reputation as a center for knowledge-based economic development.

The STARS program, originally called Innovation Research Teams in legislation passed in 2007, is designed to recruit entrepreneurial researchers to Washington. The hope is that STARS research will lead to commercial applications that eventually spin off into new businesses and jobs.

The anticipated appointments at the UW and WSU would bring to four the number of internationally recognized researchers attracted to Washington state through the STARS program, which is administered by the Washington Economic Development Commission with assistance from the HECB. The statutory goal is to hire 10 researchers by 2017.

The two new STARS researchers work in the energy "smart grid" field. The two existing STARS researchers at the UW and WSU are performing work in the fields of nanophotonics and biofuels.

John Lederer, HECB associate director, told the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Innovation on Wednesday that state program funding—lower than in other states—makes it harder but not impossible to recruit world-class entrepreneurial researchers. Current STARS funding for the biennium is \$3.8 million.

Lottery bill would boost financial aid, researcher recruitment

SB 6409 would create a new Washington Investment in Excellence account to receive state lottery money that would be used for entrepreneurial researcher recruitment and for various student financial aid programs, including programs slated for suspension under the Governor's supplemental budget proposal.

Next week's schedule:

- **Tuesday Jan. 19:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings: HB 2655, 2822, 2854, 2858, 2859. 10 a.m., House Hearing Rm D
- **Tuesday Jan. 19:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings – SB 6355, 6359, 6357, 6358.
- **Wednesday Jan. 20:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings – HB 2751, 2638, 2684, 2694. 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D
- **Wednesday Jan. 20:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings – SB 6276, 6509. 3:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3
- **Friday Jan. 22:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings – Career Track Pilot Program for Home Care Aides [S-3295.1], SB 6413. 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3

House higher education bills:

- **[2SHB 1235](#)** – Regarding tuition fees at institutions of higher education.
- **[HB 1312](#)** – Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- **[SHB 1914](#)** – Regarding community and technical colleges' maintenance and operations funding.
- **[HB 2118](#)** – Convening an advisory committee on tuition policy.
- **[E2SHB 2318](#)** – Creating the Washington institute of aerospace technology and manufacturing studies.
- **[HB 2479](#)** – Exempting payment of fees at institutions of higher learning for children of certain law enforcement officers or firefighters.
- **[HB 2580](#)** – Concerning secondary career and technical education courses.
- **[HB 2584](#)** – Regarding the scope of collective bargaining for non-tenured faculty at community and technical colleges.
- **[HB 2602](#)** – Establishing continuing education requirements for engineers.
- **[HB 2607](#)** – Providing an exception to postretirement employment restrictions for retirees teaching in high-demand subjects.
- **[HB 2617](#)** – Eliminating certain boards and commissions.
- **[HB 2621](#)** – Designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K-12 schools.
- **[HB 2630](#)** – Creating the opportunity to express program.
- **[HB 2631](#)** – Establishing a dropout prevention recognition program.
- **[HB 2632](#)** – Expanding the number of households living in the middle-income bracket.
- **[HB 2634](#)** – Promoting efficiencies including institutional coordination and partnerships in the community and technical college system.
- **[HB 2638](#)** – Regarding instructional materials provided in a specialized format.
- **[HB 2655](#)** – Expanding higher education system upon proven demand.
- **[HB 2683](#)** – Changing provisions of the economic development council.
- **[HB 2684](#)** – Establishing opportunity centers at community colleges.
- **[HB 2694](#)** – Regarding a bachelor of science in nursing program at the University Center.
- **[HB 2743](#)** – Addressing collective bargaining for certain employees of institutions of higher education and related boards.
- **[HB 2822](#)** – Modifying the budget recommendations developed by the higher education coordinating board to include recommendations on tuition and fees.
- **[HB 2824](#)** – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.
- **[HB 2836](#)** – Concerning the capital budget.
- **[HB 2852](#)** – Concerning college-level online learning by high school students.
- **[HB 2854](#)** – Making changes to the state higher education loan program.
- **[HB 2858](#)** – Regarding the purchasing authority of institutions of higher education.
- **[HB 2859](#)** – Regarding administration at institutions of higher education.
- **[HCR 4403](#)** – Providing for the 2008-2028 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
- **[HCR 4404](#)** – Commending the higher education coordinating board for its initiative to develop a higher education system plan.

Senate higher education bills:

- [SSB 5007](#) – Allowing public technical colleges to offer degrees that prepare students to transfer to certain bachelor degree programs.
- [SSB 5048](#) – Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [2SSB 5176](#) – Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.
- [SB 5316](#) – Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [SSB 5317](#) – Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
- [SSB 5376](#) – Requiring the higher education coordinating board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- [ESSB 5502](#) – Establishing the primary care physician conditional tuition loan program.
- [SSB 5553](#) – Promoting economic development through promoting innovation and the commercialization of technologies.
- [ESSB 5555](#) – Regarding lifelong learning accounts.
- [SSB 5600](#) – Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [E2SSB 5941](#) – Regarding a comprehensive education data improvement system.
- [SB 6156](#) – Providing economically responsible solutions for higher education funding and access.
- [SB 6276](#) – Granting the University of Washington tuition-setting authority.
- [SB 6290](#) – Concerning collective bargaining for certain employees of institutions of higher education and related boards.
- [SB 6325](#) – Regarding the institute of forest resources.
- [SB 6355](#) – Expanding the higher education system upon proven demand.
- [SB 6357](#) – Requiring policies for academic recognition of certain life and learning experiences.
- [SB 6358](#) – Regarding tuition surcharges for students who do not have timely completion of degrees.
- [SB 6359](#) – Promoting efficiencies including institutional coordination and partnerships in the community and technical college system.
- [SB 6364](#) – Concerning the capital budget.
- [SB 6409](#) – Creating the Washington investment in excellence account.
- [SB 6413](#) – Regarding the purchasing authority of institutions of higher education.
- [SB 6426](#) – Eliminating certain boards and commissions.
- [SB 6444](#) – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.
- [SB 6467](#) – Authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps.
- [SB 6503](#) – Closing state agencies on specified dates.
- [SB 6509](#) – Modifying the budget recommendations developed by the higher education coordinating board to include recommendations on tuition and fees.
- [SB 6533](#) – Granting high school credit for learning experiences.